

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN
MUSEUM, TURKEY

[Istanbul, Turkey], 1921-1931

November 10th, 1921

Hon. Director of the Imperial Ottoman Museum
Constantinople, Turkey

Dear Sir:

The bearer of this letter, Mr. Edward T. Newell, is the President of the American Numismatic Society. He is in your city for the purpose of studying the coins in the Imperial Ottoman Museum, especially those having relation to the issues of Philip II, Alexander the Great and their successors. As you doubtless know, he has already published several volumes in this connection.

May I bespeak for him the courtesies of your Museum and request that you may afford him such aid as may be within your power.

Assuring you that your efforts in his behalf will be warmly appreciated, I beg to subscribe myself

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

MUSÉES IMPÉRIAUX OTTOMANS

Constantinople, le 21 février 1922

N^o 13.

Monsieur.

J'ai eu le plaisir de recevoir votre lettre du 10 novembre 1921, me recommandant Monsieur le Docteur E.T. Newell, Président de la Société Numismatique Américaine.

Je n'ai pas manqué de mettre à sa disposition nos monnaies relatifs au règne d'Alexandre le Grand, et j'espère que Monsieur le Docteur Newell sera satisfait du résultat de ses études dans notre Musée.

Je suis heureux d'avoir pu vous être agréable, et vous prie de croire à l'assurance de mes sentiments les plus distingués.

Halil Ediz

Monsieur

Sydney P. Noe
Secrétaire de la Société Numismatique
Américaine.

March 10th, 1922

S.E. Malil Bey
Musées Impériaux Ottomans
Stambul, Constantinople

Monsieur:

Your letter of February 21st has just reached my hand, and I beg that you will accept my most cordial thanks for the courtesies you have extended to the President of the American Numismatic Society, Mr. Edward T. Newell. Just previous to the receipt of your letter, we had a communication from him telling of the exceedingly interesting time he had enjoyed at your Museum and of your unfailing kindness to him.

Mr. Newell asked that we send to you several of his publications and those have been despatched, and I trust they will have reached your hands by this time.

If at any time we can be of service to you or to your friends, I hope you will feel that we shall be glad to avail ourselves of the opportunity.

Respectfully yours,

SPE/E

Secretary

September 16, 1931.

His Excellency Halli Bey
Director of the Ottoman Museum
Stambul, Turkey.

Dear Sir:

May I be permitted the liberty of referring to you a question regarding an unusual coin of which I am sending a cast, under separate cover. This piece is in the collection of the American Numismatic Society, having been received along with a miscellaneous lot of other coins, which gave no suggestion for the provenance of this piece. I am also sending a photograph of several coins which formed part of a hoard unearthed in the excavations at Corinth. You will perceive that the cast and the illustrations have much in common, that they probably own the same issuing authority. Along with the coins in the hoard, there were several Byzantine pieces of the century.

Among the types figuring are an elephant, a lion and a winged horse. Apparently a rider with a halo appears on one or more of these animals. Of the inscriptions in the cartouch on the reverse only the word 'sultan' is legible on the coin in our possession.

If any pieces similar to these have come under your observation or if you have any suggestion as to an attribution for these coins, we shall be very grateful to you for communicating it. With assurances of regard, I beg to subscribe myself

Very sincerely yours,

SN:JG

Secretary

Stamboul le 10/10/931

Monsieur Sidney P. Noe
Secrétaire de la Société américaine
de numismatique
à New York.

Cher Monsieur.

Je vous réponds avec grand retard à votre aimable lettre du 16 Sept. étant absent d'ici. Je vous en demande mille excuses. La photographie dont vous parlez est perdue probablement en ouvrant le petit paquet. La pièce en question, à en juger d'après le montage, est incontestablement une monnaie musulmane et doit appartenir à une des dynasties qui se sont formées à l'Est de l'Asie mineure à la conquête musulmane au 11^e siècle à la suite de la bataille de Melaz Kerd en 1070. Je crois lire sur une des faces et au milieu, ~~du~~ d'une cercle polylobé le mot سلطان (sultane) [et non sultan]. Sur la marge on aperçoit le fragment حموده qui pourrait appartenir au nom Nasir eddin Muhammad [نaser الدین محمد]

qui serait le 4^e souverain de la dynastie

des "Saldu Kides" d'Erzérum. Mais tout
ça sont des hypothèses bien vagues, hélas !?

Les autres côtés des monnaies de ces dynasties
sont d'ordinaire des représentations chrétiennes,
des animaux fantastiques, ou St Georges etc.
Malheureusement ici c'est tout à fait indistincte.
Et puis le coin est "glissé".

On peut consulter pour cette série curieuse
le Catalogue des monnaies musulmanes (en turc)
du musée de Stamboul, vol. IV pgs. 70 - 102 et
plaques 2 et 3. Mais votre monnaie n'y
figure pas. On peut aussi consulter en partie
les catalogues du British Museum par St. Lane
Poole (moins riche). —

Je ne suis plus directeur de notre musée
ayant pris ma retraite depuis le mois de
mars. Ma nouvelle adresse est ci-dessus.

Avec tous mes dévouements la plus sincère,
votre

Halil İshem
député de Stamboul

Borne postale 403

Stamboul (Turquie)

October 29, 1931.

Hon. Halil Edhem Bey
Député de Stamboul
Boîte postale 403
Stamboul (Turquie).

My dear Sir:

Thank you very much indeed for your full and very interesting letter of October 10th. I regret very much indeed that the photostat of the illustrations in the American Journal of Archaeology failed of inclusion in my first letter to you. I am sending it to you now. Several observations are necessary, however. This reproduction exaggerates the thickness of the coins - they are very thin indeed. They are apparently of copper and in almost every case seem to be overstruck. Traces of what appear to be two small birds, vis-a-vis, and part of the inscription, are visible on the piece of which you have the cast, (see sketch on back of print). Mr. Wood, the Curator of our Museum, has supplied in pencil, beneath the coins, the Arabic inscription, as he reads it. You will understand, of course, that it is exceedingly difficult to establish the correctness of this reading and Mr. Wood would have you understand that it is a tentative reproduction of the evidence on the coin, rather than a positive statement. I am also including a copy of the paragraph relating to the hoard from which the coins in the illustration are derived.

You will see that the Byzantine coins found with these pieces confirm the dating at which you had arrived for the piece represented by the cast sent you. That cast, however, like the illustrations gives an exaggerated idea of the thickness of the coin and Mr. Wood has compared our piece with other Salduk issues and the fabric is entirely different. You will observe that the type which seems to be the upper one, consists of conventionalized animal figures, some of which have haloed riders with a reverse which consists of an inscription and a conventionalized reserve or cartouche having trefoil-like decorations at each of its six apices. The Arabic inscription shown on the obverse, I have marked "B", seems to belong to the earlier type. Mr. Wood feels that you may desire to modify your reading of the word "Salduk" in the light of the reverse to specimen "D". On the coin of which the cast was sent you the inscription is very weak at this significant point.

Hon. Halil Edhem Bey - 2

I hope you will feel that we shall be grateful for any further light that you may be able to throw upon our problem. The finding of a hoard of such pieces on the site of ancient Corinth is in itself most unusual and very difficult to explain. Its possible significance must plead our excuses for troubling you further in the matter. With assurance of my sincere regard, permit me to subscribe myself

Very respectfully yours,

SN:JG

Secretary

also Haliel-Bey, D. E.